

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 IO-13 AGRE-00 IGA-02  
EB-07 EA-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 INR-07  
NSAE-00 SP-02 L-03 DHA-02 /072 W  
-----105899 090216Z /61

R 081610Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BANJUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4500  
AMEMBASSY DAKAR  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USUN NEW YORK 120

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANJUL 0964

JOINT STATE-AID MESSAGE

AID/W FOR FFP AND AFR/SFWA

DEPARTMENT FOR AF/W

DAKAR FOR RFFPO

BRUSSELS FOR EEC

ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EAID GA  
SUBJ: GAMBIAN REQUEST FOR FOOD AID

REF: A) BANJUL 0943, B) 76 BANJUL 0293

1. VICE PRESIDENT'S WRITTEN REQUEST TO CHARGE JULY 5  
FOR ASSISTANCE IN SUPPLYING APPROXIMATELY 9000 TONS OF  
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CEREALS TO COVER SHORT-FALL FROM PAST HARVEST (REFTEL A)  
CLOSELY PARALLELS SIMILAR APPROACH MADE BY ACTING FOREIGN  
MINISTER TO CHARGE IN MARCH 1976 (REFTEL B). HE WAS  
APOLOGETIC THAT REQUEST CAME SO LATE, BECAUSE NOW  
APPARENT FOOD SHORTAGE SHOULD HAVE BEEN PREDICTED SEVERAL  
MONTHS AGO. VICE PRESIDENT BLAMED FOOT DRAGGING ON PART  
OF AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT, SAYING THEIR REPORTING PROCESS

MUCH TOO SLOW. NONETHELESS, HE STRESSED URGENCY OF NEED, POINTING OUT THAT EXTREMELY HUNGRY PERIOD WILL EXTEND UNTIL EARLY OCTOBER. VICE PRESIDENT SAID GOVERNMENT PREPARED TO PURCHASE GRAIN THROUGH GAMBIA PRODUCE MARKETING BOARD, BUT CLEARLY IMPLIED THIS WOULD BE SHORT TERM MEASURE THAT GOTG WOULD LIKE TO SEE REIMBURSED BY FOREIGN DONORS.

2. CHARGE MET JULY 6 WITH UK HIGH COMMISSIONER, UN RES REP, AND EEC RESIDENT DELEGATE, ALL OF WHOM HAD JUST RECEIVED SIMILAR REQUESTS. UK HAS REPORTED REQUEST TO LONDON, BUT VIEW HMG'S PREFERENCE FOR DONATION TO MULTILATERAL FOOD PROGRAMS, AND DIS-INCLINATION TO EXTEND BILATERAL FOOD ASSISTANCE, IT MOST DOUBTFUL UK WILL MAKE POSITIVE RESPONSE. EEC REP HAS CABLED BRUSSELS, AND EXPECTS THAT FOR LARGELY POLITICAL REASONS HIS PRINCIPALS MAY MAKE GESTURE. (MOREOVER, HE POINTED OUT, 1000 TONS EEC-DONATED RICE IS DUE IN BANJUL END JULY/EARLY AUGUST).

3. UNDP WILL REPORT REQUEST TO NEW YORK AND ROME/WFP. LOCAL WFP REP IS ILL AND HAS BEEN AWAY FROM BANJUL SINCE MAY. UN RES REP, AT URGING HIS COLLEAGUES, PLANS REQUEST EARLY VISIT TO BANJUL BY WFP REP IN DAKAR. THIS INDIVIDUAL WILL MAKE ON SPOT ASSESSMENT, REVIEW KNOWN FACTS, AND SUGGEST POSSIBLE REMEDIES.  
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4. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHO ELSE MAY HAVE BEEN APPROACHED BY GOTG, BUT LAST YEAR REQUESTS WERE ALSO MADE TO FRG, USSR, AND PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (WHICH RESPONDED WITH 500 TONS RICE).

5. CONTACT WITH CRS INDICATES SUPPLIES OF FFP COMMODITIES AT LOW LEVEL. THIS DUE TO LIMITED STORAGE FACILITIES. AS OF JULY 6, CRS HAD ON HAND 2 TONS WSB, ONE TON MILK AND 12 TONS PEANUT OIL. NEXT SHIPMENT OF COMMODITIES ORDERED IN MAY NOT DUE UNTIL END-AUGUST OR EARLY-SEPTEMBER. THIS WILL BE QUARTERLY ALLOTTMENT OF 25 TONS WSB, 50 TONS SORGHUM GRITS AND 12 TONS BULGAR WHEAT, ALL OF WHICH IS DESIGNATED FOR ON-GOING CHILD FEEDING PROGRAM AND FOOD FOR WORK.

6. IN FORMULATING USG RESPONSE, CLOSE ATTENTION SHOULD BE PAID TO RATIONALE DEVELOPED DURING 1976 EXERCISE (SPELLED OUT AT LENGTH IN REF B). WHILE ECONOMIC ARGUMENT PROBABLY NO STRONGER THIS YEAR THAN LAST, HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS CANNOT BE IGNORED. MORE FACTS ON ACTUAL SITUATION ARE NEEDED,

AND WILL BE DEVELOPED INSOFAR AS POSSIBLE. GOOD  
POLITICAL REASONS EXIST FOR GESTURE TO SMALL FRIENDLY  
DEMOCRACY WHICH CONSIDERS US TO BE FRIEND IN NEED.  
ESSENTIAL ELEMENT WILL BE TIMELY RESPONSE, AS HUNGRY  
PERIOD WILL EXTEND ONLY UNTIL EARLY OCTOBER, WHEN  
FIRST GRAIN OF NEW SEASON WILL BE HARVESTED.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**TAGS:** EAID, GA  
**To:** STATE DAKAR  
**Type:** TE  
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